

Hello,

Please do not change the rules to allow the use cellular phones on airborne aircraft.

Such a rule change has the potential to create an extreme nuisance from which there is often no reasonable chance of escape due to safety and security concerns.

San Francisco Chronicle opinion columnist Mark Morford very eloquently and colorfully exposed the infuriating potential of such a rule change in his column on 26 May 2005. It may be found at this url:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/gate/archive/2005/05/06/notes050605.DTL>

I respectfully request that it be added to the proceedings along with these comments as it speaks directly to my concerns about this rule change.

The First Amendment right to free expression is sacred because it comes with the implicit right to "change the channel," should the viewer or listener find the expression objectionable or simply vacuous. The rules for safe, secure, and orderly conduct of a commercial airline flight severely limit the ability of passenger to tune out such unwanted expression. A passenger may not have the ability to be re-seated on a full flight. And waiting out a neighboring passenger's cell phone call(s) in the lavatory or the aft galley also make unfeasible solutions. If personal and national security must take precedence over our implied First Amendment right to filter out expression that does not interest us, let it also take some precedence over the right of cell phone users to babble inanely when we cannot escape it. Being trapped inches away from a stranger and listening to his or her half-conversation for an hour or more makes any word, no matter how trivial, a "fighting word."

This rule change also sacrifices an important human element in the safety and security of commercial airline flights: calm and happy passengers. Forcing one-sided telephone conversations that range from vacant to obnoxious on one's neighbors greatly increases the amount of ill will to be found on a commercial flight. The risk of violence on a commercial flight increases commensurately.

In the interest of social responsibility and national security, please continue to prohibit the use of cellular phones on commercial aircraft.

Best regards,
Michael Przybylski